

# Golden Valley 2002

## CityNews

### Golden Valley Welcomes New City Manager

Golden Valley's new city manager brings the community 22 years of experience in public administration. He also brings a zest for the job that results from knowing he's reached the place he wants to be. Tom Burt has always considered Golden Valley a plum in the metro area pie, and becoming its city manager had long been a career goal.

"To me, Golden Valley is a premier community in the metro area," says Burt. "It's a small town next to a big city. It has a great sense of community, it's well maintained, and it has a high level of service. It has a stable staff—some of the best staff in the metro area. People are proud to live here."

When Tom Burt walked into City Hall November 18 to start his first day of work, he was continuing a journey that began about 35 years ago when he first realized he was destined for public service. Back then Burt was a third grader hanging around Bloomington City Hall, where his mother worked in assessing and human resources and his stepfather was a police officer. At that time Bloomington was a fast-growing, dynamic city, and everything west of where he lived was largely undeveloped. Supper table discussions at home often centered on city issues.

"Seeing it, being exposed to it, and being exposed to the professionals involved in it had a tremendous impact on me," he says. "I got to know the city manager at a young age. I thought it was a good, noble profession to go into—to be part of change."

*(Tom Burt continued on page 2)*



### Adopt A FIRE Hydrant This WINTER

The Golden Valley Fire Department seeks your help to keep the fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of snow.

A minimum three-foot clear space around the circumference of the hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood. The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.

Choose a hydrant close to your home and plan to clear the snow away from it each time you clear your driveway. Consider talking to neighbors about rotating the responsibility, or see if a local scout troop or similar group would be interested in participating.

Golden Valley Community Pride, a local organization that works to beautify the city by mowing public rights-of-way and planting flowers there in the summer, has adopted fire hydrant shoveling as its winter project. For more information, call Don Brown at 763-545-9518.

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## TOM BURT

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Over the years, Burt worked steadily at building the career he'd decided on as a boy. After graduating from Bloomington's Lincoln High School, he earned a degree in economics and urban and regional studies at Mankato State University. He then worked as an assistant planner in Prior Lake and a planning aide in Bloomington until he entered Mankato State's graduate program in urban and regional studies on a General Mills Fellowship. Burt finished his master's degree in 1982 and worked as an administrative aide to Bloomington's city manager before moving on to become assistant to the city manager in Brooklyn Park (1983-1989). In 1989, he was named city manager of St Anthony.

In 1994 he became the city administrator in Rosemount, a fast-growing southeast suburb of St Paul. During the next eight years, Rosemount doubled in population (currently 18,500) and underwent some major growth that greatly impacted its tax base. This included significant commercial development along County Hwy 42, development of an 80-acre business park that will eventually encompass 400 acres, and the transition of a 500-acre farm on the edge of town into a 1,100-home subdivision. The City also worked with the University of Minnesota research facility to study the effects of surface water infiltration on ground water.

Burt says it was hard to leave Rosemount, but it would have been hard to pass up the opportunity to fulfill his professional goal of working in Golden Valley. "I weighed the two jobs, and I found all the good reasons to stay and all the good reasons to go."

He plans to continue living in Rosemount with his wife, Julie, and their three children (ages 14, 10, and 5). He loves to ski and has a strong interest in technology but says his children are his main hobby. "Just being a dad takes up my spare time. I enjoy spending time with my family."

His immediate plans for Golden Valley include getting to know people, the Council, and community issues. "If you have an issue, call me or a Council member," he says. "It's two-way communications. I'm here to listen."

# City Council Adopts Proposed 2003 Tax Levy

Each November, property owners receive individually mailed Truth in Taxation notices, or "previews," showing how the proposed tax levy for the coming year will effect each parcel of property. This notice includes the date and time of the public meeting that will be held to discuss the proposed tax levy.

On this year's statement, the proposed 2003 City tax is based on a recommended tax levy of \$11,130,570, which was approved by the Golden Valley City Council in September. The actual levy, to be adopted by the City Council in December, can be less than this amount but not greater (see box for comparison with the actual 2002 levy).

The overriding considerations in setting the 2003 proposed levy were the financial uncertainties facing the City in 2003 and beyond. One uncertainty is the possible cut in Local Government Aid (LGA) and/or the Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) reimbursement received from the State. Given the State's financial situation, some amount of reduction is unavoidable. The maximum amount the City could lose in 2003 is about \$480,000.

Another uncertainty, which could be more serious, is the potential impact of numerous tax court petitions being filed by commercial/industrial (C/I) property owners seeking reductions in the market valuations of their properties. Court-awarded market value reductions could result in the City having to rebate some of its 2002 and 2003 tax receipts. At press time the court had not made any significant decisions, but given past experience, it is certain that some market value reductions are coming.

Given the uncertainties mentioned above, one of the main objectives of the 2003 Recommended Budget was to maintain the City's reserves. The 2003 budget does not include any cash transfers from the Motor Vehicle and Golf Funds to the General Fund. In 2002, these transfers were \$125,000 and \$85,000 respectively. Also, the General Fund balance is 67.1% of 2003 recommended expenditures, which is above our stated goal of 60%.

Other focal points of the Recommended Budget include the Fire Relief Levy, which hasn't been seen since 1994. It is needed primarily because of the significant decrease in the assets of the Fire Relief Association over the last two years, which were mainly attributable to the dismal performance of the stock market. Even though the proposed tax levy is up 4.2% from 2002, favorable non-levy factors (primarily a decrease in the City's net contribution to Fiscal Disparities) result in a 3% increase in the City tax on the average home (\$194,700).

Golden Valley's Truth in Taxation public hearing is scheduled for 7 pm Monday, December 2. Details about the 2003 Recommended Budget and the City's budget process are available on the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm). If you have questions about your Truth in Taxation statement or the City's Recommended Budget, contact Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012.

## TAX LEVY

	Actual 2002 Levy	Proposed 2003 Levy
General Fund Levy	\$ 7,947,120	\$ 8,265,590
Fire Relief Levy	0	\$ 79,980
Bonded Debt Levy	\$ 2,735,000	\$ 2,785,000
Total Gross Levy	\$10,682,120	\$11,130,570
Levy Increase		4.2%
Increase in City Tax on Average Home (\$194,700)		3%



# Civic Involvement Starts With Service

Every year Golden Valley residents step forward to serve their community in a variety of ways. But while opportunities for volunteerism abound, those looking for pure civic involvement need look no farther than their local government.

Golden Valley's City Council continually seeks citizens to serve on the City's nine Advisory Boards and Commissions, which recommend policy and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues (see list in sidebar). The 65 positions are filled with citizens willing to commit time and energy to making their community a better place.

One example is Rick Groger, a 17-year resident who first spent several years on the Open Space and Recreation Commission and is now in his eighth year on the Planning Commission. He wanted to get involved in the decisions affecting the City. "I enjoy living in Golden Valley, and I want to be active in making sure it remains a good place to live," he says. "Golden Valley is small enough for individual residents to have an impact on City government and development."

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Linda McCracken-Hunt concurs. A Golden Valley resident since 1965, she started on the Planning Commission and is now on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), collectively serving for nearly 20 years. "I feel a sense of satisfaction in providing some leadership in the stewardship of the city."

Potential board or commission members must be Golden Valley residents and must be able to commit between approximately four to 10 hours of their time each month. "I've been able to serve on two boards and commissions while working full-time, up to 60 hours a week, and raising two kids, rarely missing any of their activities," says McCracken-Hunt. "And if something really important comes up, there are always alternates to cover for you. It's not like you'd have to miss your kid's graduation or other important events."

Groger says the Planning Commission's semimonthly meetings each last one-and-a-half to four hours. "Preparation time, including reading and reviewing materials and site visits for proposals coming before the Planning Commission, often takes longer than the actual meeting," he adds. "Collectively, it takes eight to 10 hours a month."

Groger believes having informed citizens involved in the process makes the City a better place for everyone. "I enjoy working on the Planning Commission," he continues. "I think the City benefits by having citizens weigh in on the issues and give informed input that will ultimately help the community."

McCracken-Hunt finds it rewarding to see the results of work she does on the BZA as she drives around the city. "We [Golden Valley] have a very unique position in the metro area, and I think it's important to maintain."

For more information or an application for a board or commission, visit the City web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm)) or call Judy Nally at 763-593-3991.

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Hears requests for variances from the city code (zoning). Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday, 7 pm. Members: five. Alternates: two.

### Building Board of Review (BBR)

Advises, recommends, and assists the City Council and City administrative officers on building codes and the issuance of building permits. Meets monthly, first and third Mondays, 8 pm. Members: up to five.

### Civil Service Commission (CSC)

Has absolute control and supervision over the employment, promotion, discharge, and suspension of police officers of the Public Safety Department. Meets annually and on call. Members: three.

### Environmental Commission (EC)

Advises and makes recommendations to the City Council in matters relating to and affecting the environment in Golden Valley. Members: seven

### Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF)

Plans and holds fund-raisers and events to meet identified human service needs in the community. Advises City Council on allocation of funds. Meets monthly, second Monday, 7 pm, and requires additional time commitment for planning and working at fund-raisers. Members: 13 (six citizens-at-large, five community or business members, one City Council member, and one Human Rights Commission member).

### Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council in matters of equal opportunity and elimination of discriminatory practices. Meets monthly, second Thursday, 7 pm. Members: 12.

### Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory Commission (NHHSCAC)

Serves as the planning and coordinating body for 14 northwest cities on human service delivery. Through monthly presentations and surveys of issues, the Commission sets goals and priorities for area human service needs. Meets monthly, third Thursday, 7 pm. Members: 22 (two representing Golden Valley).

### Open Space and Recreation Commission (OS&RC)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council in policies and plans relating to open space needs, parks and recreation programs, trail systems, and Brookview Golf Course. Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm. Members: nine.

### Planning Commission (PC)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council in matters relating to planning and growth of the City, including matters relating to the social, economic, and physical environment. Meets monthly, second and fourth Mondays, 7 pm. Members: seven.



LINDA MCCracken-HUNT

## Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the weeks of the Christmas and New Years holidays will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am, Saturday, December 28 and Saturday, January 4.



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

## 24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Features recorded answers to your recycling questions 24 hours a day. Just call 763-593-8119 to reach the Golden Valley Recycling Information Line (directions for rotary phone users are on the message). For information on:

- curbside recycling, press 1
- apartment recycling, press 2
- yard waste disposal, press 3
- household hazardous waste disposal, press 4

**763-593-8119**

## Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

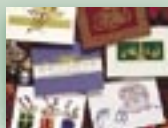
# Reduce Holiday Waste

Americans generate an extra one million tons of trash each week during the holiday season. In fact, 38,000 miles of ribbon alone is thrown out annually—enough to tie a bow around the Earth. While Minnesota ranks among the top eight states for recycling (rates higher than 30 percent), the holidays continue to produce a lot of excess waste. The following tips can help reduce holiday waste and its effect on our environment.



### CHRISTMAS TREES

Fifty million Christmas trees are purchased each year in the US. Consider a potted Norfolk pine or fig tree as a house plant that can serve as a Christmas tree, or invest in an artificial tree. Purchase trees from a tree farm rather than cutting them down in the wild.



### CARDS

Each year, 2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold in the United States, enough to fill a football field 10 stories high. One less card per person would reduce that amount by a full story, saving more than 50,000 cubic yards of paper. Save time, money, and resources by updating and paring down your list and sending postcards or electronic cards.



### LIGHTS AND CAMERA

The smaller the bulb, the lower the wattage. Outdoor light strands that are wired parallel have separate circuitry, so if one bulb blows the rest will keep shining. Capture holiday memories with a real camera instead of a disposable, and use faster film, such as 400 or 800, to reduce the use of flash and extend battery life. Finally, buy 36-exposure film rolls instead of 12 to reduce waste by 67 percent.



### TOY PACKAGING

One small toy can come packaged in two or three different types of plastic, cardboard, and twist ties. If you are buying popular toys, remember that the cardboard can be taken off, flattened, and recycled, and the twist ties can be reused. Plastic packaging is most often not recyclable, but it can be flattened to take up less space in the trash.



### GIFT WRAPPING

The average consumer wraps 20 to 30 gifts during the holidays. Try using scarves, handkerchiefs, bandanas, old posters or maps, pages the kids have colored, old sheet music, newspaper, last year's wrapping paper (if it's wrinkled just press with a warm iron), wallpaper scraps, cloth bags, or fabric scraps to wrap gifts. Be creative. Put jewelry in a wooden box or wrap kitchen gifts in dishcloths. For a special touch, reuse old bows and ribbons. Items such as hair bows, ornaments, shoe laces, and toys are reusable and make great additions to gifts.



### PACKING

Popcorn is one of the best packing materials to keep gifts from sliding around in a box. Include a note reminding the recipient that popcorn is a special treat for many birds and can be composted. If you use packing peanuts, try the biodegradable ones made from starch.

For more information about recycling in Golden Valley, check out the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm).

*Tina Perpich, Communications Assistant*



# Golden Valley Benefits From Tree Trust Projects

For 25 years, Golden Valley has benefited from park and trail summer improvement projects completed with the help of the Twin Cities Tree Trust Program.

Tree Trust was founded in 1976 to help reforest the Twin Cities metro area after a destructive bout of Dutch Elm disease. Its founders, G. Rolf Svendsen and Donald Willeke, envisioned a program that would provide jobs and training for low-income residents helping to replant their own neighborhoods. Tree Trust's mission is to "provide education and employment programs that develop individual responsibility and environmental stewardship."

Since its inception, the Tree Trust program has provided opportunities for more than 20,000 youth and more than 70 municipalities.

Each year from the beginning of June until the end of August, more than 1,000 low-income and at-risk youth, ages 14-21, participate in Tree Trust employment programs. Working in structured, closely supervised

crews of eight to 10, the youths develop self esteem and confidence and prepare themselves for future work. Supervisors provide training in basic job skills and stress a positive work attitude. The program gives metro cities a chance to make improvements to their park systems. Cities provide the project materials while the Tree Trust program provides the labor, supervision, and tools.



LAUREL AVENUE OVERVIEW

This past summer, teenage workers rebuilt stairways and refreshed woodchip trails in the Pennsylvania Woods nature area, constructed a stairway at Medley Park for access from the park shelter to the skating rink area, cut back and cleared trail edges on the Laurel Ave Greenbelt area, cut back and cleaned trail edges at the Bassett Creek nature area behind Mallard Creek Apartments, and cut back, cleaned, and refreshed woodchips on South Wesley Nature Area trails (see photos).

The Tree Trust program is sponsored by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and Private Industry Council, and it is funded by federal and state dollars and donations from local private foundations and corporations.

For more information on the program, contact Twin Cities Tree Trust at 651-644-5800. For more information about City park improvement projects, contact the Public Works Maintenance Manager at 763-593-3981.



MEDLEY PARK STAIRS



PENNSYLVANIA WOODS STAIRS



MEDLEY PARK BRIDGE

## GVHSF Helps MEET HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support human service organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fund-raisers, such as *Run the Valley* in April and September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic*. The Foundation also receives 10% of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2003, the GVHSF will allocate \$74,501 to seven local human service organizations: Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (\$22,000), Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (\$20,501), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$10,000), PRISM Food Shelf (\$9,000), Senior Community Services Home Program (\$4,500) and Outreach Program (\$1,500), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), and North Hennepin Media-tion Program (\$2,000). To qualify for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

For more information about GVHSF activities and events, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, please call 763-593-8010.



## Larson Gets State Award



In recognition of her fire safety and prevention education initiatives in the Golden Valley community, the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) recently awarded Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson the 2002 Public Fire Safety Education Award at its conference in October.

Larson coordinates the City's residential fire safety program, CPR and AED training for City employees and the public, fire extinguisher training for local businesses, and community education programs.

She also works closely with Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Judy Smith, and others to coordinate annual youth Safety Camps, a Senior Safety Fair, booster seat and car seat installation programs, National Night out, and school safety education programs.

"Sarah's creativity seems unending," says Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly. "She had become well known in the community as a can-do person that is very approachable."

"Thanks should really go to Mark Kuhnly, John Crelly (Deputy Fire Chief), Ed Anderson [Deputy Fire Marshall], and all levels of City government who have made safety and wellness a priority," says Larson. "It has taken years to get this level of support for safety education programs. The community plays a huge role, too. People here are not only open to safety and wellness education, they've come to expect it. That is a position most educators hope for."

For more information on Golden Valley Public Safety Education programs, visit the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/index.htm) or call Sarah Larson directly at 763-593-3977.

# Golden Valley Fire Department: Still Innovative After All These Years



Today's fire service involves more than putting out fires. A lot more. Fire departments must also provide emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, emergency management and planning, terrorism response, and fire prevention and education. To meet the ever-changing needs of the community, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) must continue to develop new ideas, especially when it comes to recruitment and training.

According to Golden Valley Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson, recruitment and training are bottom line issues for many modern fire departments. Paid on-call departments, like Golden Valley's, face the challenges of recruiting firefighters who can respond during business hours and providing firefighters with proper training so they are able to respond to an array of emergency situations.

"When there's a situation that needs a response, the fire department gets a call," says Larson. "And about 60% of our calls are during daytime hours."

## Corporate Call: Golden Valley's Response to the Need For Daytime Responders

"It is a challenge nation-wide for paid on-call fire departments to recruit daytime firefighters," says Golden Valley Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly. "As we studied the problem, we decided the 30,000 people who come into Golden Valley each day to work were an untapped resource. We also recognized that Golden Valley is home to a number of companies that have been good corporate citizens over the years. We wondered if they might be interested in working with us on a mutually beneficial enterprise."

The result was Corporate Call, a collaborative effort between the GVFD and area businesses to maintain a high quality of fire service in the community by recruiting daytime responders from within corporate ranks. The GVFD approached several local businesses with the idea and received a warm welcome. Corporate Call recruitment efforts yielded 20 new applications for daytime firefighters—a first for Golden Valley. At the November 4 City Council meeting, Kuhnly swore in nine new firefighters, six of whom were recruited directly through Corporate Call.

Efforts like Corporate Call help the GVFD to remain a paid on-call fire department instead of the full-time alternative, which would more than double current operating costs. The program provides participating business with a trained firefighter on staff—someone who is a first responder, who understands fire systems and the latest firefighting techniques, and who is able to evaluate everyday and emergency situations and respond appropriately. Finally, Corporate Call allows individuals and businesses to be an active part of the community's well-being.

## Training, Training, Training

"Training is the single most important ingredient in the readiness of firefighters and emergency responders," says Larson. New firefighters must complete two years of training. They start with Firefighter I, which includes firefighter safety, fire behavior, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, search and rescue, driving, hose loads and lays, fire streams, ladders, water supplies, forcible entry, ropes and knots, loss control, portable extinguishers, communications, blood borne pathogens, and confined space awareness. They continue their training with Firefighter II, First Responder for Medical Emergencies, and Haz-Mat Operational Level. After that, firefighters have two regularly scheduled training drills and one rescue drill per month.

Larson believes the continuous training provides a side benefit—it builds a unique level of camaraderie among the firefighters, the kind necessary for people who must work side by side during emergencies. Recently new recruit Terri Kiblin, a Tennant Company employee and an EMT, was invited on a ride-along with fellow recruit Stephen Baker, a North Memorial paramedic. They responded to an emergency call and ended up delivering a baby in the ambulance en route to the hospital. "A situation like that creates a bond that's hard to replicate in any other type of work environment," says Larson.

For more information on the GVFD, firefighter training, or the Corporate Call program, call 763-593-8080.



**Thank You,  
Corporate Call Partners**  
Allianz  
General Mills  
Homeward Bound  
SSA Global Technologies  
Streicher's  
Tennant

## Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The Golden Valley Fire Department urges you to stay safe this holiday season:

- Choose a fresh tree or wreath that's not shedding its needles. Trim the tree trunk at an angle before putting it in a non-tip stand and place tree three feet away from heat sources and fireplaces. Remember to water your tree constantly.
- Make sure all holiday lights are labeled and listed for use. Do not use any lights with cracked, frayed, or loose connections. Do not overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets, and unplug everything before you leave home or go to bed. For outside decoration, use lights and extension cords designed for outdoor use.
- Put candles in non-tip holders before lighting them, and keep them away from decorations or other combustible materials. Do not use candles in displays or as decorations, and never leave them burning unattended or within reach of children.
- During holiday parties, avoid using candles. If smoking is allowed, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays. Dispose of ashes in an empty metal can with a metal lid and leave them for 24 hours before putting them in the trash. After the party, check inside and under furniture and wastebaskets for smoldering cigarette butts and ashes. Cigarette smoking is still the leading cause of fire fatalities in Minnesota.

For more fire safety information, contact Sarah Larson, Golden Valley's Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator, at 763-593-3977, or visit the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firepreventioneducation.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firepreventioneducation.htm).

## Fire Fighter Facts

Firefighters wear about 60 lbs of gear and work in extreme temperatures.

Firefighters work in smoke-filled environments and are exposed to a variety of physical hazards including burns, radiant energy, explosives, toxic chemicals, and biological agents.



## Hwy 100 Update

Although work has been delayed by weather conditions, including cold temperatures and above normal precipitation, work continues on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Hwy 100 project through Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Brooklyn Center. Here are current highlights:

**Segment I (Glenwood Ave to Duluth St)**—Construction of the Hwy 55/Hwy 100 interchange and ramps continues and will be completed this year if weather permits. Currently the Hwy 55 ramp to northbound Hwy 100 is closed. Paving of the east and westbound frontage roads from Duluth to Glenwood and the area near Glenwood and Breck School was originally scheduled for this fall but has been postponed until 2003. Noise wall construction continues north of Hwy 55 on the east frontage road. Two noise walls are left to be completed, one in the southwest near Turner's Crossroad and the other in the southeast near Lilac Dr. Paving on the northbound lanes and bridge over the railroad is scheduled for mid-November if weather permits.

**Segment V (Duluth St to 29th Ave N)**—The frontage road and ramp from southbound Hwy 100 to Duluth St are complete. Work on the retaining wall in the northeast quadrant is done for this season and will resume next year. Construction of the ramp from Duluth St to northbound Hwy 100 will not start until spring 2003. During a recent weekend closure of Duluth Street, crews finalized work on the Duluth Street bridge for this year. Next spring, crews will demolish and reconstruct the west half of the bridge. Work is expected to be completed by fall 2003.

The reconstructed freeway will be six lanes (three in each direction) from I-394 to County Road 81 and four lanes (two in each direction) north of County Road 81.

MnDOT requests drivers take extra care around street construction. To get more frequent updates, go to the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/streetconst.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/streetconst.htm), which also links to MnDOT's web site.

## City Improves Seven Miles of Streets In 2002

Despite a construction season hampered by unusually heavy precipitation and related delays, the City of Golden Valley completed most of the street improvement projects scheduled under its 2002 Pavement Management Program (PMP). The projects called for reconstructing about seven miles of streets in four areas of the city, including the South Tyrol Area (south of I-394 and east of Hwy 100), the Meadow Lane North Area (south of Hwy 55, north of Glenwood Ave, and between Hwy 100 and Wirth Parkway), Unity Ave (immediately east of Hwy 100 and north of Duluth St), and Country Club Dr (between Douglas and Rhode Island Ave). All of the projects are essentially completed except for the Meadow Lane North Area, which will be completed in summer 2003.



COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

In each PMP area, crews upgraded utilities, installed curb and gutter, reconstructed streets to meet current City standards, and restored lawns and landscaping disturbed by the construction. The relatively small area of Unity Ave was completed in August and features a new blacktop trail that follows Unity Ave and Minnaqua Dr. The final layer of paving on both Unity Ave north of Minnaqua and Minnaqua Dr will be done next spring. Work on Country Club Dr came to a close in early September, when the final layer of asphalt was paved and the street was striped. The South Tyrol Area project includes several new retaining walls and a new storm water pond (landscaped with native plants) to promote water quality.



COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

Because of the wet summer and extra work undertaken by utility companies, the City decided to delay a portion of the work on the Meadow Lane North PMP. Most of the work in the four-phase project is already finished. Crews will continue to work on the remaining one mile of streets as weather permits, with work to resume in spring 2003.

### PREVIEW of 2003-2004 PMP

Next year the PMP is scheduled to move to the vicinity of Laurel Ave and Winnetka Ave, a segment of the city with long-standing traffic issues. The proposed project covers the area north of I-394, south of Hwy 55, west of Jersey Ave, and east of General Mills Blvd (except for Harold Ave). It also includes the area bounded by General Mills Blvd, Hwy 55, Hwy 169, and Betty Crocker Dr.



LIMESTONE RETAINING WALL  
ALONG ALPINE PASS IN  
SOUTH TYROL AREA

The City has held neighborhood open house meetings on the proposed project, and the City Council will make a final decision on construction after a public hearing in December. For detailed information about the proposed 2003-04 PMP project, visit the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/2003pmpprojects.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/2003pmpprojects.htm).

### FUTURE PMP PROJECTS

Golden Valley's PMP includes reconstructing approximately 60 miles of streets (which were not originally built to current standards) over a period of approximately 10 years. For more information about the Pavement Management Program, contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030.

# Snow Removal Takes Time, Tests Patience

Wielding a 40,000-lb snowplow has its challenges, especially when you consider the working conditions. Each winter Golden Valley's 15-person crew battles snow, ice, limited visibility, and traffic to clear 120 miles of city streets and about 31 miles of sidewalk quickly and safely. Cooperation from the public is not only appreciated, but necessary.

According to Jerry Woodhull, who's worked on the City's snow removal crew for 25 years, there are several things residents can do to help. One is to be aware of snowplows on the road. "Most people are nice and respectful," he says. "But a few don't realize they just need to give us some room. Once the snow is out of the way, they are free to go."

To help snowplow operators, residents should:

- Reduce speed and stay out from behind snow removal equipment.
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass snowplow vehicles while they're plowing.
- Keep garbage cans and recycle bins up in the driveway and off sidewalks if it snows on collection days.

Woodhull says residents can also help by understanding about their driveways. "Golden Valley people are great, and most understand we are just doing our job," he adds. "But every year there are calls about snow plowed into driveways. I know it's frustrating, but there's no other place for the snow to go."

Plowing begins after snow accumulates to two inches or more and stops falling (sidewalks are usually cleared about two hours after the streets). To keep traffic moving when snowfall continues for long periods, crews focus on main arterial routes and "through" streets that connect neighborhoods to state and county roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions and resumes when conditions improve.

"If it's snowing during the day, we try to keep a crew out through rush hour to get people home safely," says Woodhull. "If it's still snowing, we're back out around midnight, so most streets are done by morning rush hour."

If you have questions about snow plowing or winter safety, call Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Lyle Johnson at 763-593-8081 or visit the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets.htm).



**GOLDEN VALLEY'S SNOW REMOVAL CREW**  
(front L to R): JERRY WOODHULL, DOUG VAN GORP, LARRY ELLESTAD; (middle L to R): GARY KOTTKE, KEVIN JAAX; (back L to R): LYLE JOHNSON (SUPERVISOR), PETE SEEMAN, DON YOUNG. NOT PICTURED: CHUCK PERKINS, BOB DONCASTER, BOB THELEN, RICK TILBURY, JOEL BONA, DAVE LEMKE, MATT JEFFERSON, AND DWIGHT JUELL.

## ORDINANCE REMINDERS

### SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Removal of snow and ice from private property to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property is prohibited by City ordinance. Infractions are misdemeanors and are subject to fines and prosecution. When snow is being removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it), make sure it stays off roadways, sidewalks, and adjacent property. Improper snow removal can result in many complications, some of which can be very dangerous. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this issue, contact Tom Klatt, Public Works Maintenance Manager, at 763-593-3981.

### PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

Parking is not allowed on any public street after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has been plowed to the curb line.

After a snowfall of at least two inches, supervisors from the Public Works and Police Departments confer and determine when enforcement will commence. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police, and those still in violation after 24 hours may be towed. This winter, stay informed of the weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets when necessary.

### PLow DAMAGE

The City is not liable for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc.). These obstacles should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

## ICE CONTROL

Sanding crews use a sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are sanded first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections with higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs, and areas deemed hazardous by City crews or Public Safety officials



# THE ICE MEN COMETH

Mr Ice (aka Bob Strandquist of the Park Maintenance Department) has been responsible for Golden Valley's outdoor skating rinks for 28 years, making him and his six-person crew the City's resident ice experts. Here he provides a primer on the science of making rink ice.

To begin, rink areas require a flat surface, so crews level them in the summer to get ready for winter. The ground needs to be frozen to get a good base, and base ice is five to six inches deep, which usually takes six to seven floodings.

"At 10°, we can lay about 1/2-inch of water, at 0°, maybe 3/4-inch," explains Strandquist. "We are always pushing the limit of how much water we lay down to get the rinks ready for the kids, but an inch is the most we put down at one time."

"No matter how much we put down, it always amazes us how long it takes the water to freeze. We usually start around four pm when the sun is going down, then work until midnight so the water has all night to freeze."

When the base ice is set, the crew moves into maintenance mode. They use sweeper tractors to push the snow to the sides, then shovels and snowblowers to clear the edges. The tractors have scrapers on the back to level the ice.

After clearing and leveling, crews maintain the finish ice. "We hand spray (fog) a couple of coats of water on the surface of the ice," Strandquist says. "The ideal temperature is 10 -20°. If it's colder, the mist freezes before it hits the ice. Warmer, and the coat takes a long time to freeze."

Strandquist says it's all worth the effort because the kids like it so much. The problem is that most kids like to be out on the rinks during winter break when conditions aren't always right for making ice.

"In all my years doing this, I've only seen four to five ideal years for making ice," Strandquist says. "When you're dealing with weather, it's different every year."

**THE ICE MEN**  
(clockwise from top):  
Rick Tillbury,  
Matt Rowedder, Bob  
Strandquist, Joe Nehring,  
Len Sodd, Bob Thelen.  
Not pictured:  
Dwight Juell.

# City Prepares For Skating Season

Although ice is a natural winter occurrence in Minnesota, the ice in Golden Valley skating rinks requires the expertise of the City's Park Maintenance Department, first to build the rinks, then to maintain them.

To produce enough ice for a skating rink, temperatures need to remain around 0° to -10°F for a week or so (see sidebar at left for details). The goal is to have ice conditions ready by mid-December so skating can begin before the winter school break. Since the weather does not always cooperate, the Park Maintenance crew asks for your patience.

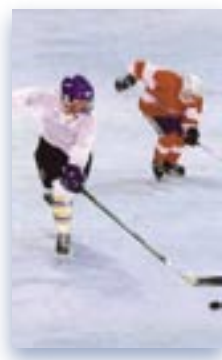
Rinks are cleaned and resurfaced Monday through Friday and cleaned on Saturday mornings, depending on weather conditions. However, crews can't be everywhere, so feel free to check out the double bladed shovels available at shelter buildings. Also, remember that during extreme cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed.

Before dropping children off, call 763-512-2350

to hear a recording about skating rink and park shelter closings. "Closed" signs are also posted on park shelter doors.

If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8045.

*Ron Hammer,  
Park Maintenance Supervisor*



## skating INFORMATION

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at the following parks:

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H	GS	W
Hampshire	1601 Louisiana	H	GS	W
Lakeview	9300 Olympia		GS	W
Lions	7200 Harold Ave	H	GS	W
Medley	2355 Ensign Ave	H	GS	W
Scheid	1965 Toledo	H	GS	W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H	GS	W
North Tyrol	4300 Sunset Ridge		S	
South Tyrol	Tyrol & Ortley Pass		S	
Yosemite	Woodstock & Yosemite		S	

H=Hockey rink W=Supervised warming shelter GS=General skating rink S=Secondary skating area

## Rink SCHEDULE (WEATHER PERMITTING)

**Rinks open December 15 and close February 18**

Monday - Friday	4 - 9 pm (10 am - 9 pm on school holidays)
Saturday	10 am - 9 pm
Sunday	1 - 9 pm
Christmas Eve	10 am - 4 pm
<b>CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	





# Signs, Signs, Everywhere There's Signs

Signs are everywhere, from large signs looming in the air depicting a company's name to smaller signs above doors of retail shops. There are billboards and nameplates, steady neon signs, and reader-board signs with ever changing words. We are a society bombarded with signs that affect the look and safety of our community. That's why the Golden Valley City Council and the Planning and Inspections Departments recently overhauled Golden Valley's sign ordinance (City Code 4.20), effective October 25, 2002.

"The old sign ordinance had been rewritten so often it was no longer coherent," says Golden Valley Building Official Gary Johnson.

Ordinances exist to protect and promote general welfare, health, safety, order, and aesthetics within the community. The new sign ordinance recognizes the need to maintain an attractive and appealing appearance of property and prevent visual clutter while assuring that the public is not endangered, distracted, or annoyed. It establishes consistent requirements, permits adequate signs for effective communication, and limits signs to identify uses and business locations in an efficient, effective, and aesthetic manner.

## RESIDENTIAL SIGNS

While most private citizens are not directly effected by the changes to the sign ordinance and their signs do not require permits, there are a few things they should know. First, garage sales signs must be six square feet or smaller, located on the property of the sale, displayed for no more than three days, and only be displayed twice a year. Nameplates cannot exceed one square foot and can contain only the name and profession of the resident. Real estate signs cannot exceed six square feet (50 square feet if on six lots or two acres).

For safety purposes, all signs must be located at least 10 feet from all property lines and 10 feet from any driveway. Signs cannot be in the corner visibility zone (see corner visibility requirements, City Code Chapter 7).

## OTHER SIGNS

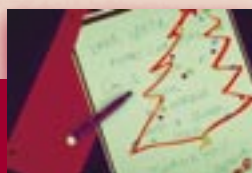
The changes to the aspect of the sign code regarding other signs address consistency issues. "All sign sizes used to be determined by use," explains Mark Kuhnly, Chief of Fire and Inspection Services. "Now size will be decided by zoning district and the size of the site or the square footage of the building, whichever is greater."

One of the big changes to the ordinance involves reader board signs, the digital signs with changing messages. These are now prohibited, but businesses that had them before the ordinance went into effect can continue using them. This is true for all signs that don't meet the current code; however, when a sign is replaced, it must meet the new ordinance standards.

For more information, check the City web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter4index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter4index.htm)) or call Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090.

## mailbox TO THE NORTH POLE

From December 2 to 13, children can drop off letters to Santa Claus in the special direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox in the Park and Recreation office at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway. Santa's helpers will pick up the letters each evening and deliver them straight to the North Pole. Santa requests that letters include the full name and address of each sender so he and his helpers can reply.



## SENIOR STUFF

**Membership Dues**—Jan 13: Membership Social Noon Lunch and Entertainment, Brookview. 2003 Golden Valley Senior Membership Dues are \$5 per person. Pay now to receive 2003 calendar.

**Pressure Screening**—Dec 18, 11 am - noon, Brookview

**Defensive Driving Course**—Four-hour refresher: Dec 19, 9 am - 1 pm, Brookview

**Special Events**—Dec 5: Wellness & You Holiday Cooking, 1:30 pm, Dover Hill; Dec 9: Holiday Supper & Entertainment, 7 pm, Brookview

**Upcoming Trips** (register early)—Dec 2: Swedish Institute; Dec 13: Santa House in Stillwater; Jan 19: "Driving Miss Daisy," Lyric Arts Main Street Stage, Anoka; Feb 13: Valentine Outing

**Health Insurance Help**—Second Tuesday of each month, 9 am - noon, Brookview. Trained volunteer counselors help sort health insurance and Medicare forms, file insurance claims, and obtain information about Medicare supplemental or long-term care policies. Schedule in advance at 763-512-2339. Sponsored by Senior Community Services.

**PRISM Express** provides seniors with door-to-door transportation service to seniors for medical appointments, personal shopping, etc. Schedule in advance at 763-529-1252.

**Five Cities Transportation Program** offers rides to seniors living in senior housing buildings, apartments, and in their own homes for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. Dates and times are listed in the monthly Golden Valley Senior Newsletter. Reserve a ride by calling the Five Cities office (763-537-0229) Monday - Friday, 8 am - 3 pm.

For more information or to register, contact:

Golden Valley Seniors Program  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway  
Golden Valley, MN 55426  
763-512-2339  
8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday



# Local Crime Fund Needs Your Support

Safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities. That's why the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund partners with the City's police department to provide financial support for a variety of crime prevention and safety programs. Run by volunteers, this private, nonprofit organization is supported by Golden Valley businesses and residents dedicated to creating and maintaining strong community involvement.

Several of Golden Valley's crime prevention programs are youth oriented, including Safety Camp (a two-day safety education program for second, third, and fourth graders), Junior Safety Class (day-long safety education for four-, five-, and six-year-olds), CounterACT (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth graders), Public Safety Awareness Camp (a safety and citizenship class for fifth graders), and Kids & Cops (an after-school program for at-risk middle school students).

Other crime prevention programs include Senior Safety Fair, National Night Out, and Neighborhood Watch. The Crime Fund also provides rewards for information in serious criminal cases.

## Crime Fund

Please send contributions to:

Golden Valley Crime  
Prevention Fund  
7800 Golden Valley Rd  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Contributions are the Crime Fund's only source of revenue. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution. For more information, contact the Crime Fund at 763-593-8054 or [cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



Join the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort. For the eighth consecutive year, the GVPD will lead regional law enforcement agencies in a toy drive that culminates in a loud, colorful parade. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their police cruisers with toys and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing, they all caravan over to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site. In past years the effort has garnered thousands of toys.

Once again the GVPD invites the Golden Valley community to join the effort. Between December 10 and 20 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sergeant Steve Johnson at 763-593-8079.



763-593-8000

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City of  
**Golden Valley**  
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